



SPANISH BILINGUAL ASSISTANT COURSE for MEDICAL INTERPRETING



Course Description

This 60-hour training course is designed to provide a resource for training staff and volunteers capable of assisting health care professionals in oral communication with the Spanish-speaking patients, their family and/or Surrogate Decision Makers. The class will meet every other Thursday from 12:30–5:00 at the Children’s Pavilion in Room 2017 and requires completion of online assignments 4.5 hours per week. Physician guest instructors will cover anatomy and physiology, epilepsy, interpreting for children, common diseases and medical procedures in English and Spanish. The SBA class also covers the interpreter’s role, legal issues, advance directives, bereavement and Latino cultures.

Prerequisites

Applicant must be fluent in English and Spanish and have passed a Language Assessment proficiency with a score of 75% or higher. Each applicant must interview with the instructor for pre-evaluation prior to admission into the course.

Objectives

At the completion of the training course, the student will be able to demonstrate appropriate techniques of interpretation, understand a national code of ethics, utilize advanced medical terminology and demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

Content

Oral Pre-Class Evaluation

Introduction to Becoming a SBA

Words We Don’t Want to Forget
(1700 words in Spanish & English)

Culture and Medicine

National Council on Interpreting in
Health Care Standards of Practice

Legal Issues and Ethics

Interpreting for Children

Mid-Term Examination

Human Body

Special Senses, Subspecialties

Immune System

Common Tests & Procedures

Epilepsy Training for Medical
Interpreters

Cancer

First Response

Final Examination

...AND MUCH MORE!

Course Dates and Times

In class instruction:

Every other Thursday
January 24 – April 4, 2008
12:30 – 5:00pm
Children's Pavilion
1001 East Marshall Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Online assignments:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1.5 hours each day

Fees

- \$500 for non VCUHS employees.
- \$90 for VCUHS employees for manual and all related course materials (fee is non-refundable for an employee who registers and decides not to take the course and does not cancel by January 21.

Interviews

Interviews for this program will be held by appointment at the Office of Language Services:

West Hospital, 10th floor,
North Wing, Room 1003
1200 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23298

Cancellation Policy

All refunds are subject to a \$75 administration fee. No refunds within 10 days of the course.

Guest Instructors

Colleen A. Kraft, MD

President, Virginia Chapter,
American Academy of Pediatrics &
The Virginia Pediatric Society

Juan Villalona, MD

Assistant Professor
VCUHS Division of Pediatric
Gastroenterology and Nutrition

Omar Rashid, MD, JD

Resident PGY-2
VCUHS Department of Surgery

For further information, please contact:

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Spanish Bilingual Assistant Instructor
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Medical Interpreter Project

The Maricopa County (Phoenix, Arizona) Medical Interpreter Project was born in 2001 in response to the death of Gricelda Zamora Gonzalez, 13 years old, who died of appendicitis at a local hospital in 1999. She had served as her family's interpreter during her illness.

Hundreds of interpreters in Arizona were trained during the three-year, grant-funded project. Due to the tremendous success of the SBA course, it expanded its reach to include medical interpreter instructors throughout the United States. The first group of 25 national trainers completed their training in 2006 and have implemented the Spanish Bilingual Assistant course in over 20 metropolitan regions of the United States. Seventeen additional national trainers were added to team in October, 2007.

A Certificate of Completion and an SBA pin will be awarded after successfully passing the midterm and final test, which include written and oral exams.



Providing comprehensive training to bilingual interpreters is an urgent health and safety need. This training is critical because it increases accuracy and quality as well as contributing to a decrease in medical errors. In 2001, the University of Arizona and Phoenix Children's Hospital, with input from local and national experts, developed a curriculum that trains bilingual speakers to be expert trainers of medical interpreters. Recent funding from the global organization Ronald McDonald House Charities, Inc. expanded the project to a national program for interpreter trainers.

"Nearly every hospital receives patients with limited English proficiency, but less than 25 percent of the country's hospitals are staffed with skilled interpreters. Being a good interpreter means having a huge vocabulary in two languages, recognizing cultural differences, and being able to stay personally quiet while repeating what everyone else is saying. It's art and science; it takes talent and training. Interpreters are in a very special role. By developing trainers, this project will improve patient care and safety. Teaching is a natural extension of the communication skills unique to interpreters."

~ Barbara Rayes, Master Trainer for the National
Medical Interpreter Project Children's Hospitals